

Lt. Governor John Garamendi's Statement on the Swearing in of Karen Bass as California's 67th Speaker of the Assembly

Sacramento, CA – Lt. Governor John Garamendi had the following comments today on the swearing in of Karen Bass as Speaker of the California Assembly:

“Today’s swearing in of Karen Bass as the state’s 67th Assembly Speaker marks a significant milestone for our state and our nation: The election of the first African-American woman as leader of a state legislative body.

“Since I first came to the Capitol more than 30 years ago, we have truly come a long way. Karen's election as Speaker exemplifies the diversity and potential of all Californians -- her story of hard work, commitment and determination is one I am proud to share with my grandchildren. As Speaker of California's Assembly, I'm confident Karen will do what she has always done – bring people together while holding firm to the Democratic principles of equality and opportunity for all. With her experience as a community organizer and as a proven and effective legislator, Karen has the skills and the know-how to begin solving our persistent budget problems and build consensus on the many critical issues facing our state.

“I look forward to working with Speaker Bass to achieve a long-term solution to our budget crisis so that California can finally offer its people what they want and deserve -- health care for all, greater investment in the education of our young people, and advanced solutions to the looming threat of global warming.

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